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CPW Report No. 38--USSR

(27 May-9 June 1952)

SUMMARY

The Kazakh and Kirghiz Republics are implicitly reminded that Moscow's ideological surveillance is not a sporadic manifestation but a continuous process. The historians and writers of these SSR's are urged to revise their views of the Republics' past, and to bear in mind that the "progressive development" of their peoples began with the union with Russia which, incidentally, was "voluntary." Criticism of the Ukraine's ideological weaknesses is considerably milder in tone. The targets of official attack here are certain pitfalls in university instruction as well as continuing bourgeois-nationalist distortions in the field of art. The Crimea, which it will be recalled was "demoted" from an ASSR to an ordinary oblast shortly after the last war, is now to have its ethnic history rewritten. The new history will "establish" the Slavic origin of the peninsula's population and refute the differing views held by Western historians.

Inadequate utilization of machinery is admittedly still the principal short-coming in Soviet industry. Strengthening of centralized control (edionachalie) is urged by PRAVDA as a cure-all for most of the industrial ailments. Regional editorial comment is critical of the continuing "race" (gonka) for quantity production to the detriment of qualitative indices.

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